

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 28, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 19 stand rejected. Applicants have amended claim 17 to remove a repeated word in the preamble of the claim. No change to the scope or elements of the claim is made thereby.

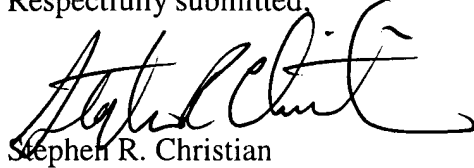
Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,495,204 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,015,558 to Small et al.

Claims 1 through 19 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,495,204 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,015,558 to Small et al. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Formal Drawings (1 sheet, 1 figure)
Terminal Disclaimer